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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Simonson, Rush E.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/696,727

FILING DATE: 10/28/2003

FOR: Improved Vertebral Implants Adapted for Posterior Insertion

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 080083.00004

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street South
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant is submitting this preliminary amendment to add additional claims to the application prior to first examination.

In the Claims:

11. (new) A surgical method for replacing damaged fibrocartilage between facing superior and inferior vertebrae in the lumbar region of a patient's spine, the patient having a posterior region, the superior vertebrae including an outer surface, a spinous process and an inferior articular process, the inferior vertebrae including an outer surface, a superior articular process and pedicals, the method being carried